

Brearly House
Trenton-Princeton Turnpike
Princessville
Lawrence Township, Mercer County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-342

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

Brearly House
Trenton-Princeton Turnpike
Princessville
Lawrence Township, Mercer County, New Jersey

Owner: J. Baker Brearly

Date of Erection: 1760

Architect:

Builder: John Brearly

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two and one-half

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - brick,
Flemish bond on the
front

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch

Historical Data:

John Brearly who built the house in 1760 was a descendant of the first John Brearly, then spelled Bryerley, who located in Mercer County in Maidenhead on the Spring Road Farm.

The present owner is a great grandson of the original builder. The house has been kept in good repair and still preserves much of the characteristics of the houses of the period in which it was built.

The first of the Brearly family in America were two brothers who came from York, England, about 1680. One of these brothers settled in New Jersey. The first who located in Mercer County was the John Brearly mentioned above as living at Spring Road Farm. The family as a group were important in the early history of New Jersey. The oldest son of the original John Brearly was General Joseph Brearly. He served throughout the Revolutionary War, was commissioned captain, later serving as an aide-de-camp under Washington. Toward the end of the struggle Governor Howell commissioned him general. A son of his, David, was a Colonel in the War of 1812 and later an Indian Agent appointed by President Monroe. Another one of his sons Benjamin served in the artillery during the War of 1812 as a lieutenant. Another son of the original John Brearly read law at Princeton and settled at Allentown. He was a member in 1776 of the First Constitutional Convention. He was commissioned a colonel, but before he joined the forces he was appointed chief justice of New Jersey, an office which he held until his death in 1790.

Bibliography:

Woodward, E. M.) History of Burlington
Hageman, J. F.) and Mercer Counties, New Jersey
Philadelphia, Everts and Peck, 1883

Material collected by Samuel Alper,
Survey historian for Mercer County

Valter E. Peck
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, A.I.A.
District Officer

3/11/39 - MW